

is that he is saying the number is 5,000—5,000 troops. That is not what the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said 100,000, and growing, and that people are seeking to participate in the security forces of Iraq.

Furthermore, what he said was he did not want any more American troops, that he recognizes the responsibility of protecting Iraq should fall and will fall to a free Iraq Government and Iraqi security forces which answers to that government. He expects them to be able to accomplish that. He made it very clear that Senator KERRY may have a different view but that he thinks, from his experience in Iraq, that is not the case.

If you listened to Senator KERRY in his press conference, in response to Prime Minister Allawi's statement to the joint meeting of Congress, you almost sense that he hopes things are not going well. He, of course, gives the token statements: Oh, I really do want peace there. I really do want to win there. But with every token statement, there is a followup statement of how disastrous things are, how much chaos there is—a follow-on to his statement that replacing Saddam Hussein was a mistake because chaos followed.

It is an attitude which cannot possibly assist the Iraqi people as they reach for freedom, as they reach for liberty, to have a major candidate running for President of the United States basically saying they will not succeed and that it is time to take drastically different action. It is an attitude which I also suspect must have some impact on our own troops there who are looking for consistency from our leaders in their support for their efforts in that very difficult situation.

In this press conference, Senator KERRY went on to say that he has told the President, and he used the words: I have stood in Fulton, MO, and I gave the President advice about what he needed to do, and he did not take it. I stood at Georgetown University a year and a half ago and I gave the President advice about what he needed to do, and he did not take it. I stood on the floor of the Senate and I gave the President advice about what he needed to do, and he did not take it. I stood up last week in New York City and gave the President advice, and he did not take it.

The problem is, of course, he kept changing his advice. In every one of those speeches, the proposals he laid out as to what we should do in Iraq were different. He went from being for the war to being against the war. He went from being for giving the President authority to move forward to saying the President moved forward inappropriately with the authority. He went from saying that Saddam Hussein should absolutely be removed—and in his words; I paraphrase again but fairly accurately—that anybody who did not understand the necessity of removing Saddam Hussein should not be elected President because they did not understand the significance and the impor-

tance of removing Saddam Hussein and how significant that was—he went from that position to saying Saddam Hussein should not have been removed because it would create chaos. He may have given the President advice. He has advice every week.

The fact is, there have been such different positions in all these periods when he gave advice that we would have looked like a windmill or like a weather vane on top of a barn in the middle of a hurricane. Had we been following that advice, we would have been shifting positions so often.

The point is the President has said: We will stay with the Iraqi people as they seek peace and freedom. And if we are successful in creating a democracy which functions in Iraq—and Prime Minister Allawi made clear that is exactly what they intend to do, and they are well down the road toward accomplishing that, with 15 of 18 provinces being ready for elections now, and they intend to pursue elections in January—where liberty reigns and where law reigns and where women have rights, we will fundamentally undermine the capacity of fundamentally Islamic movements, the terrorist groups of this world, to recruit within the Muslim world, because the Muslim people will understand that freedom and democracy and rights and women having rights works to the benefit of their society and gives them a better life.

The Senator from Massachusetts has been quick to run down the statements made by Prime Minister Allawi. That is unfortunate. When Prime Minister Allawi said the only thing that could harm them would be forces of defeatism, he was speaking for his people. They want hope. They want the opportunity to succeed. And they need our support to accomplish that.

I have watched the evolution or the mutation or the development of Senator KERRY's position relative to Iraq. He spent a lot of time in New Hampshire campaigning in the primary. We had a chance to observe it there. At that time he was quite aggressively supportive of pursuing the efforts in Iraq. He was confronting, of course, an individual who took a much different position, Howard Dean, who said we should not be there. We should get out of there and peace at any price.

After that, he moved back to more of an attitude: We are making mistakes, and we should not be there under the context that we are there.

Then he moved to Saddam Hussein should have survived. It is better than the chaos that exists there today. And then he has moved to, we have made so many mistakes, I disagree absolutely with everything this administration has done relative to Iraq, which leaves the alternative: what would he do. Obviously, he would not have put Iraq on a course to peace, on the course to independence, on the course to freedom, on the course to democracy, on the course to liberty, on the course to giving women rights they didn't have

before. That is what the President has pursued. He would have abandoned—and it appears he would still—Prime Minister Allawi who has come forward so courageously and has stated so distinctly the basic essence of what this war is about, which is that it is about people seeking freedom.

He quoted Prime Minister Blair and he said: Prime Minister Blair said that this was a battle between people who are seeking freedom and those who wish to overwhelm freedom and that the basic impetus of all people is to want to be free; it doesn't matter whether they are Christian or Muslim, people want to be free. Prime Minister Allawi is trying to accomplish that for his people, with his people in Iraq. Yet we have a press conference here by the leading candidate of the other party, Senator KERRY, who basically contradicts all of what the Prime Minister has said, both as to the substance of what is happening on the ground and as to the purposes of what his goals are. That is terribly unfortunate. It is a fundamental shift in where Senator KERRY was when he was campaigning in New Hampshire, at least. It is almost as if he has decided to step into the shoes of Howard Dean and pursue that course as the new policy of the Democratic Party in this Presidential campaign.

That is unfortunate because Howard Dean, as decent and as honorable a person as he is—and I had the great privilege to serve with him as Governor; we became Governors of neighboring States about the same time; we had many very good experiences—the fact is, Governor Dean's policies were the wrong policies. And they were rejected by the party in the nominating process. It is unfortunate that Senator KERRY has sort of morphed into that position as he has evolved in this campaign.

This is a period of considerable need for consistency and determination on the part of our Nation, if we are to be successful in supporting a heroic and strong effort on the part of Prime Minister Allawi and his nation to obtain freedom and democracy and the rule of law which comes with it. I certainly hope we will not be abandoning that cause.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS AMENDMENTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the advice of my colleagues, I have been notified that the majority leader wishes to go soon to the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. The floor manager for the majority will be Senator MCCONNELL of Kentucky. I will floor manage for the Democratic side. Obviously, it will be up to the distinguished majority leader when the bill will actually be laid down. I just wanted to notify colleagues, I have been informed

we are about to go to it. I would hope as most of the issues on it have been worked out on a bipartisan fashion that we could move quickly. I know Senators may have amendments, but if we do soon go on this bill and allow Members to bring forward their amendments on this side, I would urge them to let us know what, if any, there are so we could seek time agreements once the bill is laid down.

I see the distinguished senior Senator from Ohio on the floor.

I wanted to make the observation that once the leader turns to this bill, I would hope Members, certainly on our side of the aisle—I would use the privilege of having been here 30 years to urge Members of the other side of the aisle—would speak to the appropriate leaders if they have amendments and see if there are things that can be worked out without a rollcall or can be worked out with a time agreement.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as my friend and colleague Senator LEAHY has just said, in a few minutes we will be moving to the Foreign Operations bill. I thought I would take a few minutes in anticipation of that to talk a little bit about that bill.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman MCCONNELL and Ranking Member LEAHY for their great work. In a very tight budgeting year, they did a remarkable, bipartisan job. I also personally thank their staff, Paul Grove, Tim Rieser, and Mark Lippert. Their tireless efforts are greatly appreciated.

The staff has done a fabulous job, as have the two Senators. They have a great team.

I want to highlight several items. I know my colleagues will be outlining the bill in detail, but I want to talk about several things that I am particularly grateful that they were able to include in this bill, and I think they deserve our thanks.

First, this bill provides lifesaving humanitarian assistance to the Darfur region of Sudan. With the support of Chairman MCCONNELL and Ranking Member LEAHY, we were able to add \$150 million in emergency humanitarian relief.

I also want to recognize specific language that we were able to secure in the bill relating to child survival in HIV/AIDS. Specifically, I again thank the chairman and Senator LEAHY for their inclusion of language addressing the continued need for mother-to-child transmission programs, as well as the importance of AIDS pediatric treatment.

In addition, I am pleased the bill includes specific language about how to protect the transfer of land and property rights to AIDS orphans. These are individuals who cannot be forgotten, and making sure that we protect their rights is so very important.

The bill also has an additional \$15 million for the child survival primary

causes line item. Also, the bill includes the provision of Senators DURBIN and BROWNBACK that increases funding to the Global Fund by \$150 million, with half of that money dedicated to the treatment and prevention of malaria, a disease that kills over a million people a year, at least 700,000 of them African children. I commend both of my colleagues for that, and I commend, again, Senator LEAHY and Senator MCCONNELL for their help on that amendment.

Finally, I thank the chairman and ranking member and their staffs for the tremendous attention they have paid to Haiti. Because of their support, the Senate bill provides over \$82.5 million, excluding any assistance for food. That represents a 230-percent increase over the administration's original request. As my colleagues know, our assistance to Haiti is critical in helping our neighbor, a nation less than 800 miles from our shores, get back on its feet.

The committee included much needed report language in the bill outlining key priorities that should form the basis of our U.S. assistance strategy in Haiti and provides a reporting requirement to ensure that this strategy is developed in a multiyear, long-term fashion. Haiti's needs are immense. We simply cannot afford to turn our backs.

Mr. President, the commitment of the chairman and the ranking member to Haiti is clear. The committee's commitment to Haiti is clear and made more so by the support of the amendment we are offering today, a resolution calling for increased international assistance to Haiti. I know my colleague will talk about that shortly.

Specifically, the resolution focuses on two principal deficiencies we are facing in Haiti—funding and security, which are challenges that have been even further exacerbated these past few days. Haiti has been hard hit, as we have all read, by Tropical Storm Jeanne. The death toll so far is estimated at over a thousand. But, frankly, we believe that figure is going to climb as more bodies are found.

At least 1,200 to 1,300 Haitians are missing, presumably washed out to sea or buried in thick heavy mud.

On a personal note, I spoke this morning to my friend, Father Tom Hagan, from the organization Hands Together. Father Tom lives in Haiti and has lived there for many years. I talked to him on a cell phone this morning. He was back in Port-au-Prince. Yesterday, he traveled north to the city of Gonaives, and he also passed through the village of Brunette. He described for me on the phone the devastation he saw. What he told me was just unbelievable, shocking, absolutely tragic.

As father Tom moved up north and approached Gonaives, that village, about a mile outside of the city, was covered in water—2, 3, 4 feet of water. He said it was a huge lake, that in some places the water was up to the windows of his truck. He had a terrible time, frankly, getting up there.

I have a couple of photographs from Gonaives I want to show my colleagues. This picture was an AP photo taken in Gonaives. The second aerial photo was taken, again, in the city of Gonaives.

As Father Tom said, in the city most of the houses have been destroyed. The mud huts and concrete shacks crumbled, leaving standing only the houses made of stone. Anyone who has traveled in Haiti knows that most of the houses are made of mud—mud huts. Very few are made of stone. Very few are really made of anything substantial.

Father Tom told me the stench was overwhelming. Dead bodies were littering the roads and floating in the putrid standing water that remains. Dead animals abound and disease, of course, will soon be rampant.

Father Tom told me people were wandering about aimlessly in a state of confusion and desperation. He said that you can literally see the fear on people's faces. Mothers could be seen holding dead babies in their arms and walking around. Other mothers were carrying their young children above their heads, trying helplessly to keep them out of the flood water.

Father Tom said that even the animals seemed confused and didn't know where to go. Thousands of people have been displaced, with no food, no good water, and no shelter. Father Tom told me that the U.N. troops were visible on the ground, but even their compound is underwater. He saw aid workers from the Pan American Development Foundation. He saw some of their trucks and saw that they were trying to get aid to the people. Some of the trucks did get through to Gonaives, but others were turned over and stuck in the mud.

The village of Brunette, which lies very near Gonaives, has also become a lake. In January, 2003, Senator DURBIN, Senator NELSON, Senator NELSON's wife Grace, and my wife Fran, and I all traveled to Brunette. We visited the village and met with village leaders and schoolchildren. This is a picture of Brunette, the village we visited on that day. This was one of Father Tom's water development projects. As I said, we met with the village leaders and schoolchildren. It was a very happy day.

Senator DURBIN and Senator NELSON will recall that the bumpy ride we took, going up from Port-au-Prince, was 50 miles or so. It took about 4 hours to get up there because it was such a rough road. We did get there and saw this village. These are some of the pictures that we took on that day. The village that you see here is now gone, according to Father Tom. It is a lake, totally covered. You cannot see anything. All you can see there is water. It looks like a total lake. Father Tom assumes that the people just went to higher ground. That is the life these people are going to have to try to go back to and try to put together.

I ask my colleagues to try to imagine this village we see in this picture completely submerged in water, completely covered in fetid, disease-ridden floodwater. Father Tom said you can no longer see the houses above the water. All you can see is part of a cistern from the water project we visited that day.

Clearly, the people of Haiti need our help, now more than ever. This bill today is taking a number of steps that will aid the Haitian people. I congratulate Senator MCCONNELL and Senator LEAHY, the chairman and ranking member, for their great work.

With this recent disaster, the needs of the people of Haiti—food, water, and medicine—will even be greater.

I thank all my colleagues who have been so supportive of the efforts to help bring Haiti back to its feet. I ask them today for their continued support. I ask everyone for their prayers as well. This is a very difficult situation that the people of Haiti face today. The situation Father Tom described is clearly one that necessitates the United States and the international community to become even more involved, to get food in there, to get good water in there, and then be involved in helping to rebuild, in helping these people put their lives back together.

OHIO FLOODING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I want to also add that while there is a great deal of misery and suffering going on in Haiti right now because of the flooding, my home State of Ohio is also hurting. Several large regions of our State—the southern part, the eastern part—have also been very hard hit.

At least seven people we know of have died as a result of flooding since August. The hurricane has hit Ohio and has caused quite a toll. I will be traveling in some of that region in Ohio tomorrow to take a look myself. My representative Karen Sloan has been on the scene. She represents me out of my Marietta office, but she has been traveling throughout that region for a number of days and has been reporting back to me daily.

The people on the ground have been doing a great job, a courageous job. I congratulate them. It is going to take a lot of time to get things back up and running in a number of communities that have been hardest hit. I commend Governor Taft. I commend the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. I commend the men and women of the Ohio National Guard. I also commend the local officials who have worked so tirelessly, but also the countless volunteers and organizations who have worked to try to help the people who have been put out of their homes, people who have lost property, and people who have lost their loved ones. I congratulate them and thank them for the great work they have done. A lot of work still remains to be done in Ohio, as I know there does in many other States as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT PAUL MARDIS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I have come to the floor this afternoon to pay tribute to a man who gave his life in service to our Nation fighting to protect his family, his fellow soldiers, and the Iraqi people. He was a brave young man who was mature certainly beyond his years.

Army SSG Paul Mardis served in the Army's 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group based out of Fort Campbell, KY. He was seriously injured in May when he was in northern Iraq and a bomb exploded next to his Humvee. Paul was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to recuperate. Although he fought valiantly to regain his strength, he came down with pneumonia and, tragically, his body was too weak to fight back. He passed away on July 15, 2004. He was only 25 years old.

Since his death, I have learned a lot about Paul Mardis. Perhaps most inspiring is that in his all too brief 25 years on this Earth, Paul lived life to the fullest. He accomplished many things of which people twice his age could only dream.

Paul was not someone who had things handed to him, either. His life was not always easy. He faced adversity early in his life, and even as a child he learned to cope better than most adults ever could. Paul's parents died when he was growing up. He was 10 when he lost his father and 14 when he lost his mother. If dealt that hand, many people might have become withdrawn and bitter, perhaps, but certainly not Paul. He continued to work hard at school, excel as a football player, and developed a level of maturity uncommon at any age.

Following the death of his parents, Paul went to live with his sister Sherri and her husband Tollison. Paul left the life he knew in Coshocton, OH, and moved to Florida. He finished high school there, graduating from Palmetto High in 1997. Though initially he did not want to make the move to Florida—I guess that is understandable with someone his age—Paul made the best of the situation and kept in touch with his friends in Coshocton, especially a young woman named Kacey, whom he would eventually marry in October of 2002.

After graduation, Paul attended Manatee Community College for a time. He knew he needed to earn more money to complete his college degree, so he decided to join the Army. Paul enlisted in September 1998 as an indirect fire infantryman, but he aspired to join the Special Operations Forces. He reached this goal when he became a Green Beret in 2001. SFC Don Kabrich, who served with Paul, once said that "Special Forces put our group through an assessment selection process. It's 3 weeks of circumstances and situations that take the cover off an individual, and you see who's inside. They found the best of the best in Paul."

One of the most impressive things about Paul was that if anyone had a

right to boast about his skills and accomplishments, it was certainly Paul Mardis. But he never did. He did not brag. He did not boast. He quietly went about his job—and doing it well, I might add.

Unbeknownst to his family, Paul had earned several awards in the short time he had been in the Army. He was awarded two Bronze Stars for Valor in Combat, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, a Purple Heart, and had successfully completed all the schools of the elite forces, including graduating with honors from basic airborne school. Despite the accolades, Paul remained modest. When a nurse called him a hero as he lay recovering in the hospital, Paul insisted that he was nothing special, that he was just doing his job. But, Mr. President, we know better.

Paul touched the lives of all those with whom he came in contact, including Iraqis whom he barely knew. When Baghdad fell, Paul was part of a Special Forces liaison to the emerging political parties. At age 24—24—he was actively working to restructure a foreign government, an amazing accomplishment for anyone, but particularly someone his age.

Although he had many professional successes, Paul cultivated personal relationships in the Army that were very dear to him. Paul's Army buddies fondly remember him. They liked to joke that he was an "organizational fanatic." After finding old receipts tucked away in a filing cabinet, Paul took it upon himself to reinvent his unit's filing system. SSG Mark Conant, Paul's comrade, commented:

I believe Paul has entered the pearly Gates of Heaven and relieved St. Peter of his duties to get people through the gates more efficiently.

Conant and others also described Paul as an asset to the team and as a great friend.

I had the privilege of meeting Paul's family and some of his friends. His sister Sherri remembered that Paul never did anything halfway. He always went above and beyond what was expected. This is undeniable. Paul answered our Nation's call to serve and did whatever was needed.

It is impossible to honor Paul the way he deserves. The nature of his sacrifice will not allow it. I know that my words must fall short and my words must be inadequate. With that in mind, though, I would like to conclude with the words of Paul's wife Kacey. She said this about her beloved husband:

Paul was a brave individual who put his life on the line so that we could be free. He loved his country, fellow soldiers, and believed in what he was doing. We can go to sleep at night knowing that the world is a safer place because of people like Paul who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. He was a true American hero.

Though Paul Mardis never wanted to call himself a hero, he could not be more deserving of the title.